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# Record

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## WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Hunger hits home



Retirees get involved



Letters to the editor



Sunday School lessons

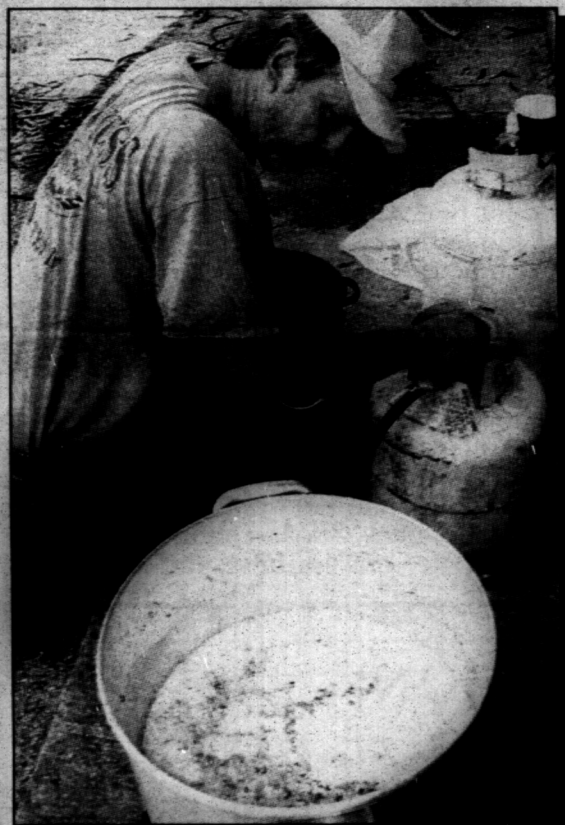


## AMF project harvests bounty for BCV

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The oft-heard phrase, "Children, eat your vegetables," will soon have a special meaning to residents of the Baptist Children's Village (BCV) campuses around the state, thanks to the efforts of the Mississippi Agricultural Missions Fellowship (AMF).

That's because AMF is beginning what its members hope will be an annual campaign to put fresh, Mississippi-grown vegetables on BCV tables for the benefit of the children who live under the care of this state's Baptists.



**JUST RIGHT** — Jackie Sims, a member of Phillipston Church, Sidon, checks the propane flame under a batch of peas being blanched July 27 outside the church's fellowship hall. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

The first-year project came alive July 27 for members of Phillipston Church, Sidon, who started harvesting a half-acre of peas at 6 a.m. and then returned to the church's fellowship hall for a day of shelling and blanching before the peas were transported to the BCV campus in Jackson.

Perry Irvin, pastor of Phillipston Church, said church members were thrilled to volunteer on a hot summer day because they felt it was an opportunity to give back a little of what God has given them in abundance.

"The Lord has blessed this community so much. We're just trying to be what we're supposed to be — a conduit for the Lord's blessings. We're out here today for the glory of God and to help the children at BCV," Irvin said.

Since May when the first seeds were planted, Teddy Sims and his brother Jackie tended the half-acre pea patch on land owned by Willie O'Bryant.

The Sims brothers and O'Bryant are members of Phillipston Church.

"I like doing God's work, and I want to help feed those kids," Teddy Sims said. The Sims brothers also plant and tend another garden each year for the free use of community residents.

Prior to Pea Picking Day at Phillipston Church, AMF coordinated the harvesting of 3,700 ears of corn for BCV from land owned by David Conway, a member of Immanuel Church, Greenwood, where the corn was processed and stored before shipment to BCV.

Conway also has about two-and-one-half acres of peas for BCV that will be ready for picking near the end of the first week in August, and many volunteers will be needed to harvest and process that crop, according to AMF president Frank Prewitt of Belzoni.

To volunteer or provide equipment for harvesting the peas, contact Conway at (662) 453-1752.

Prewitt said the fellowship plans to expand the BCV project to other crops in the future.

"We're going to continue to do this each year for the children. We're going to plant winter crops this year — some grains — and then we'll start early next year on getting the land and supplies to plant vegetables again," Prewitt said.

BCV executive director Ronnie Robinson said the project is already making a difference, and he looks forward to AMF's help in the future.

"Donations from AMF volunteers have dramatically impacted our \$7,000 per week food budget this summer. Donations of corn on the cob have already been enjoyed by BCV kids, and the anticipated gift of peas means more vegetables we will not have to purchase this month," Robinson said.

The Men's Ministry Department and the Woman's Missionary Union of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) will be coordinating the project on a statewide level, Prewitt said.

"This is all done with volunteer help, so it's important that Mississippi Baptists get involved in these projects for the benefit of our BCV children.

"Volunteers will be needed, along with donations of the use of land and equipment," he said.

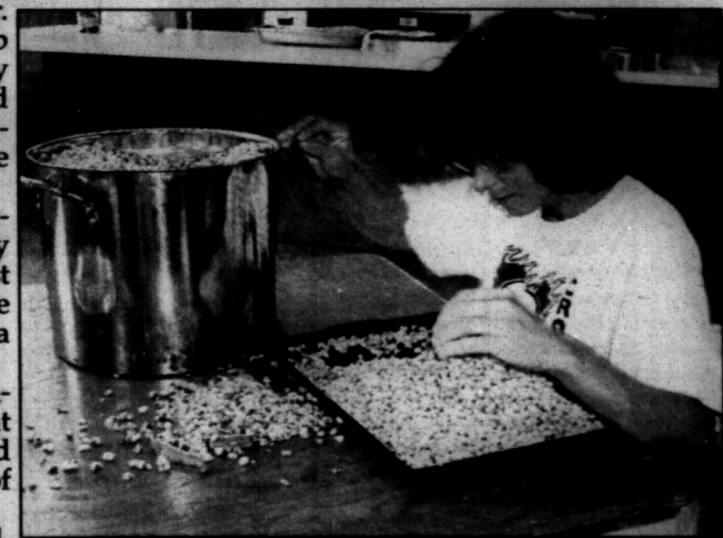
He added that AMF will also accept donations of livestock for BCV use, with AMF arranging



**MORE ON THE WAY** — Teddy Sims (foreground), a member of Phillipston Church, Sidon, prepares to load another batch of peas into an electric sheller July 27 as pastor Perry Irvin (left) and deacon Charles Boyd feed the peas through the machine. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

for processing and delivery to BCV.

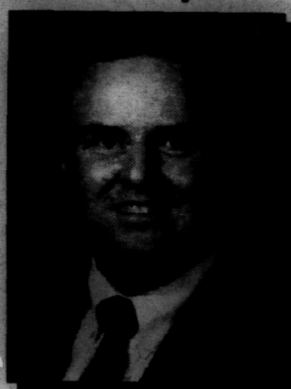
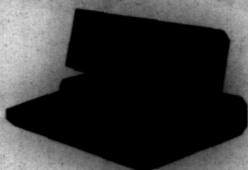
For more information on the AMF project on behalf of BCV, contact the Agricultural Missions Foundation at (601) 857-8544, or the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: gwood@mbcb.org.



**PEA BY PEA** — Cassandra Keenum, a member of Phillipston Church, Sidon, carefully inspects shelled peas July 27 in the church's fellowship hall for stems and other foreign material before blanching. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.  
Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

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# Our oppressed brethren

**C**hristians around the world need our prayers. While that statement is always true, it seems especially important right now as our brothers and sisters face increasingly grave personal dangers in many parts of the world — just because they profess the name of Jesus.

In Indonesia, more than 4,000 people (many of them Christians) have died in ongoing violence that erupted after a minor dispute in January 1999 between a Christian bus driver and a Muslim passenger on one of the Moluccas Islands, a part of Indonesia previously known as the Spice Islands.

After the bus incident, a small group of Muslims declared jihad, or holy war, on all Christians on the islands, and soon thousands of trained and heavily-armed Muslim jihad warriors began arriving from the nearby island of Java.

Christians fled to makeshift refugee camps, and they are now being slowly encircled by the radical Muslim warriors who have refused to allow delivery of humanitarian supplies to the 34,000 people in the camps.

With the country's population more than 85% Muslim, the Indonesian government has refused to allow intervention by the United Nations or any other international group. Reports indicate that efforts to reach refugees by the International Red Cross have been aggressively opposed by units of the Indonesian military.

A July 16 television broadcast exposed members of the Indonesian army actively assisting Muslim terrorists in an all-out attack on a Christian neighborhood.

While the current American administration has seen fit to intervene in many areas of the world under similar, but secular, circumstances (Somalia and Kosovo, for examples), our government's tepid response in this instance has been to wait and see if nearby ally Australia will decide to intervene.

Observers believe the Muslim extremists' ultimate goal is to topple the current Indonesian national government. If that happens, the situation can only worsen for



Christians in that country.

Meanwhile, bombings and other attacks against Christians in India are on the upswing. At a mere two percent of the population, Indian Christians are easy targets for Hindu terrorists.

Beginning with the horrific burning deaths last year of an Australian Baptist missionary and his two young sons, Hindu radicals have undertaken a crusade to crush the Christian faith among Indians and drive out foreign missionaries.

Several Catholic priests have been murdered, and Catholic food relief warehouses have been destroyed. The June 9 bombing of Gewett Memorial Baptist Church in Ongole was one of six such recent attacks in the province of Andhra Pradesh alone.

These are but two of the hot spots for savagery against Christians. Sudan continues its campaign to exterminate the

Christian faith in that country, and jails around the world are brimming with people whose only crime is to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

We are again reminded how different is the lot of the American Christian when compared to Christians through the millennia. It is far more common for Christians to suffer the fate of an Indonesian or Indian or Sudanese believer, than to live the comfortable Christian existence to be found in this country.

Let us therefore be found faithful in praying for our oppressed brethren around the world. Let us be found faithful in supporting and defending them in every possible way.

Most of all, let us be found faithful in helping to bring to Jesus a world that is so in need of his message of salvation and peace.

Source: Baptist Press

**M**y heart broke as I read the June 30 article in The Clarion Ledger newspaper concerning the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (KBCH).

At a meeting of Southern Baptist Directors of Children's Homes in April, I knew that Kentucky Baptists were involved in a lawsuit because they terminated an employee after finding that she was openly homosexual. Everyone at this meeting certainly applauded Kentucky Baptists for their stand.

The Department of Human Services for the State of Kentucky apparently decided that if Kentucky Baptists were so narrow minded, then the State would withdraw all of their financial contracts with KBCH.

The only problem here is that the KBCH budget was funded primarily (70-75%) by state and federal funds. This move would have basically shut down KBCH, but the Southern Baptist governor of Kentucky intervened and some state contracts have been renewed. The major problem, as I see it, is found in the fact that KBCH depends on the

## GUEST OPINION:



### Children: our most precious resource

By Ronnie Robinson, executive director  
The Baptist Children's Village

state and federal government for funding, rather than on God's people in God's churches throughout Kentucky.

I have always said that our government is making a big enough mess without telling us how to raise our children. Your Baptist Children's Village (BCV) in Mississippi does not receive state or federal funding. Our operating budget for 2000-01 is \$4,800,000.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention provides \$500,000 of this amount and the other \$4,300,000 comes from churches, individuals, and estates all across our state.

In 1999, there were more

than 1,100 Mississippi Baptist churches in our state that gave less than \$300 in an entire year to BCV. If that number increases, will we also have to seek state and federal funding to stay alive? Will you prayerfully seek to find how your church supports BCV? If every Mississippi Baptist church would place BCV in their budget for \$100 a month, there would be no need for special offerings and appeals.

Are your children that precious to you? Consider:

- BCV has ministered to hurting children and families for 103 years.
- BCV now has five loca-

tions across the state.

- BCV provides family and individual counseling at strategic locations across the state.

- Daily operational costs for the BCV are in excess of \$7,500 each day.

- No child is ever refused admission solely because of the lack of funds coming with that child.

- Only 422 Mississippi Baptist churches gave \$1,000 or more to the children in the entire 1999 calendar year.

If children are truly our most precious resource, then what price do we put on them? I have a difficult time talking about caring for precious children and money at the same time. However, I realize that we cannot care for children if the money is not there. I want to covenant with you right now in stating that I will do everything possible to keep the BCV as the finest child care facility in the southeastern United States. Will you covenant with me to lead your church to support this work in such a manner that money never has to be a bottom line consideration?

Are your children worth it?



# Miracles affirmed in new book from WMU

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Asked to name a few miracles in Old Testament times, one might mention that God spoke to Moses through a burning bush, demolished the walls of Jericho, and delivered Jonah from the belly of a large fish.

Even more familiar, perhaps, are the accounts of miracles performed by Jesus as he healed the sick, raised the dead, and quieted the storm.

More than 2,000 years later, do miracles still happen? Dellanna O'Brien, retired executive director of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), believes they definitely do.

In "Beyond Belief," the WMU emphasis book for 2000-2001, O'Brien pairs scriptural accounts of miracles and contemporary stories related by missionaries.

"The thread of truth about God's activity in the hearts and lives of his people is unbroken throughout all time," O'Brien said in an interview. "And that evidence ... abounds if we are just open." With the power of God remaining available today, O'Brien said, "...we as Christians must rely on him to lead and empower us for those ministries he has for us, beyond our own confessions of our belief." God has promised to equip for extraordinary service those who are faithful to his cause, she said.

O'Brien recounts in her book the "strange strategy of war"

employed by Joshua in obedience to God's command. Joshua led the Israelites to march around the walls of

Jericho each day for six days. On the seventh day, still obeying God's instructions, Joshua commanded that ragtag army to "Shout!" and the walls of Jericho tumbled down.

Centuries later, another mir-

acle happened with the dismantling of the Berlin Wall reuniting Germany as a nation and ending communist rule. German Christians had been praying for years for that freedom, and they definitely recognized those changes in government as a miracle from God.

Using a New Testament example of a miracle, O'Brien retells the story of Paul and his companions arriving at Malta.

The 276 passengers swam to shore after being shipwrecked, and everyone survived. The Maltese built a fire to warm the weary, wet travelers.

While seeking wood for the fire, the apostle Paul was bitten by a venomous snake.

He amazed the natives by shaking the snake into the fire and suffering no ill effects from its bite.

No less a miracle from God is the story of John Dina of Mozambique, O'Brien writes. In 1996, a poisonous snake also bit him. Far from medical help, his situation seemed hopeless.

The Christian Mozambicans formed a circle around Dina and prayed unceasingly.

This crucial prayer request was communicated by the International Mission Board (IMB) to the Woman's Missionary Union of Florida and on to women in individual churches who had committed

to pray for missionaries. The request for prayer also was posted on the IMB's prayerline, and millions of women began praying for Dina.

Not coincidentally, of course, Dina's birthday was only four days before the incident, and because his name appeared on the WMU prayer calendar, Baptist women all over the world had prayed for him.

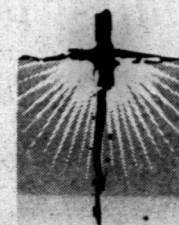
Dina was airlifted to Johannesburg in extremely serious condition. After intensive medical treatment for four days, Dina began recovering.

Today he credits that recovery to a miracle from God. O'Brien agrees.

Dina's restoration to health and ministry, she says, is every bit as much a miracle as Paul experienced 2,000 years earlier.

O'Brien believes that too many Christians explain away current miracles as either exaggerations or misunderstandings. After hearing a Korean pastor speak, she realized that Christians in other countries might be more open to believing in modern-day miracles.

The pastor stated that the reason Korean Christians rely so on prayer is that they are taught that God moves powerfully in answer to prayer.



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THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
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## Keyboard ensembles gaining

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Keyboard-playing groups might just become the next hot sound in churches, a music professor said, suggesting the musical instrument could also prove to be an outreach tool. "There are so many portable keyboards in closets and under beds in church members' homes," said Michael Sharp, assistant professor of piano and music theory at New Orleans Seminary. "Imagine the doors [the instrument] can open for churches in a community. Among American boys and girls, there is a heightened interest in keyboards, and their use in churches holds a lot of potential for outreach."

The concept of keyboard ensembles began a decade ago among keyboard teachers who provided group instruction, Sharp told participants attending his keyboard ensemble classes at the Church Music Leadership Conference, July 15-20, at Glorieta, a LifeWay Conference Center, in New Mexico. Keyboard ensembles, a multi-keyboard group of up to eight players, can sound similar to a small band or mini-orchestra, he said. And while the idea for such ensembles in churches is in the early stages of discussion among musicians, several clinics on the subject are being offered throughout the country, and musical material for keyboard ensembles is being written.

Sharp has written some keyboard music for his students and for Pedalpoint, a keyboard publication published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Sharp said students of the keyboard ensemble movement might someday be the solution to the accompanist shortage among smaller churches. "I think this concept has enormous potential for training future keyboardists," Sharp said.

The music ministries department of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention sponsored the Church Music Leadership Conference.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

First Church, Jackson, dedicates its new \$2 million organ with a special concert by organist Diane Bish. The organ, one of the largest in the U.S., has five keyboards, 231 ranks, and 12,877 pipes — some of which are so large that openings had to be cut into the ceiling during installation.

### 20 years ago

The Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering goal for 1980 contains funds for a proposed ministry at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. This will include development of a church-type mission for prison employees and their families and assistance for inmates' families.

### 50 years ago

Girls attending Camp Garaywa in Clinton this summer donate a substantial amount of money to be used by missionaries to purchase land and construct the first Baptist encampment in the South American nation of Colombia, 14 miles from Barranquilla on the Atlantic coast.



## Baptist editor/ journalist dies in car crash

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Longtime Southern Baptist journalist Al Shackleford, 68, died July 23 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident near Nashville.

At the time of the accident, Shackleford was editor-in-chief of Mature Living magazine at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Earlier, Shackleford served as vice president for public relations of the SBC Executive Committee from 1987-1990. He was dismissed from his position, along with Baptist Press editor Dan Martin, during a controversial closed-door meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in which armed guards were posted to prevent entry into the room. He held several part-time positions before joining LifeWay in 1992.

Before joining the Executive Committee, Shackleford served as editor of the Baptist & Reflector, newsjournal for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, 1976-87, and editor of The Indiana Baptist, newsjournal of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, 1965-76.

# Hunger retreat touches young participants

PULASKI, Tenn. (BP) — A tense silence fell over the youth from First Church, Pulaski, Tenn., as the church van made its way into downtown Nashville on that cold Friday night earlier this year. Armed with gospel tracts, hot coffee, and snacks, the group had embarked on a journey into the unknown world of homelessness.

They had determined to make a difference in people's lives during their B.E.A.T. Hunger retreat (Believers Everywhere Attack Hunger). Little did they know, the biggest difference would be within themselves.

"I expected to warm their hearts and bodies," Melissa, 18, said. "However, I received so much more from the people we met, that they ended up touching my heart."

For several weeks, their youth minister, Lewis Thomas, had been leading them through Bible studies on the subject of the poor, allowing the Holy Spirit to build a burden in their hearts leading up to the retreat. Having begun a 24-hour fast early that morning, the empty pain gnawing in their stomachs would give them empathy for the people they were soon to meet — or so they thought.

As the group approached a park on the banks of the Cumberland River, they came to a place known as the "hot rock" (so named because of steam lines that run under it

make it warm). There, a motley group of people huddled close

searchlight moving back and forth near the Memorial Bridge

less. He went on to say that no one much cared for them.

...Chuck used Scripture to help me better grasp his situation." After spending some time with the group, he just walked away.

"He touched my life," Linda, 16, later stated, "and I know I will never look at another homeless person the same again." The experience left the group wondering if they had just entertained an angel.

The following morning, the group served breakfast at the Union Rescue Mission.

As more than 200 homeless men trudged through the serving line at 5:30 that morning, the church youth worked hard to serve the food and give personal attention to everyone who came through the line.

One homeless man in his 20's quickly finished his breakfast so he could play the guitar the group brought with them.

Another man, calling himself "Prince Edward," began to draw freehand sketches of some members of the youth group.

The experience proved an eye-opener to Whitney, a high school senior with the group, as he noted the uniqueness of every individual they encountered.

One thing "which sticks out is the talent and gifts in these individuals," Whitney said. "They each possess a unique personality which is amazing once one gets to know them."

B.E.A.T. HUNGER — Lewis Thomas (left), youth minister and Christian vocalist, enjoys a laugh following a hectic breakfast schedule with a resident of the Union Rescue Mission's training program. (BP photo by Steven S. Nelson)

together seeking the warmth of one another amidst the night's damp fog.

Were they drug addicts, alcoholics, criminals? Was it a safe place to be? No one knew for sure until the church youth began to interact with the group and discovered their shocking story.

What the teens found was a group of hurting people locked in the depths of grief. These who had so little had suffered a loss, the death of a friend. Lewis Thomas, the church youth minister, had noticed a police boat patrolling the waters with a

just a few hundred feet away. Just a few hours earlier, a friend of this group, another homeless man, had jumped from the bridge, taking his own life.

The group knew then that God had brought them there for a reason.

As the youth extended their sympathy, prayed, shared coffee and snacks, they were approached by "Chuck," a homeless man.

"He could quote more Scripture than almost any man I know," Linda, one of the church youth, recounted. "He asked that I pray for the home-

## Legislation pushed to protect newly born infants

WASHINGTON (BP) — Legislation is needed to provide clear legal protection to newly born infants, including those who survive abortions, witnesses testified at a congressional hearing.

The Born-alive Infants Protection Act, H.R. 4292, would establish in federal law a baby living outside his mother's womb is a person. The bill would not affect any abortion procedure or require medical treatment on an infant where it is not currently administered, said Rep. Charles Canady,

R.-Fla., chief sponsor of the legislation.

The bill does not change the longstanding principle in the law that born-alive infants are entitled to legal protection, but it is necessary, Canady said. "We're doing this, however, because we believe that that principle... is under threat given other developments in the law," he said.

Those developments include the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June striking down a state ban on partial-birth abortion. Cultural and medical developments that

threaten the principle, witnesses said, are a view proposed by some in American academia that parents should be able to kill newly born babies who are handicapped or unhealthy and a practice of allowing babies who survive abortion to die.

"If the right to abortion entails the right to kill without regard to whether the child remains in the mother's womb, it would seem to follow

that infants who are marked for abortion but somehow survive have no legal right to appropriate medical or any medical care at all," Canady said, according to his written testimony. "And if a child born alive after a botched abortion does not receive the protection of the law, what is to prevent an abortionist from simply delivering a child and then killing it?"

Two nurses testified babies, some of whom might be able to survive with proper care, are being left to die when they survive abortion at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, Ill.

The abortion method used at Christ Hospital is known as induced labor abortion or live-birth abortion, said Jill Stanek, a registered nurse. The goal of the procedure is to cause a woman's cervix to expel a premature baby who dies in the process or shortly after departure from the womb.

She held a baby boy of 21 or 22 weeks gestation and with Down Syndrome for 45 minutes until he died, Stanek said, according to her written testimony. Her fellow employees have told her of similar incidents, including one child of at least 23 weeks gestation who had a 39% chance of survival but was left untreated and died more than two hours later, she said. One baby survived for nearly eight hours, Stanek testified.

## Study reveals SBC compensation rates

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (ABP) — The average full-time Southern Baptist pastor in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) earns \$39,187 a year in salary and housing allowance, plus benefits and expenses equaling a total compensation package of \$51,589.

That's according to a biennial survey of churches in 18 Baptist state conventions including old line states like Georgia and Alabama, smaller conventions like New England and Hawaii and others in between.

The average pastor's salary increased \$3,141 since the last survey, or 8% over two years.

The best-paid pastors were in Georgia, where

the average salary and housing totaled \$43,560, and the lowest-paid were in Iowa, where the typical Southern Baptist pastor earned \$29,814.

The survey also looked at annual compensation for other church employees.

"Bivocational" pastors, preachers who also hold jobs outside the church, were paid an average of \$12,046 in salary and housing. Full-time ministers serving in roles other than pastor averaged \$38,879. Part-time staff in those roles averaged \$9,712. Full-time church secretaries earned on average \$19,724, while part-time were paid \$9,090.

Average compensation for full-time church custodians was \$19,895 and for part-time \$6,384.



# Retirees getting 'recharged' as volunteers

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Being a volunteer at Ridgecrest isn't work; it's fun, say Ruby and Frank Jackson, volunteer coordinators for Ridgecrest, a LifeWay Conference Center in North Carolina.

Frank, a retired chief of police in Chickasaw, Ala., said he has always loved to travel. "The only place I've ever been unsatisfied was where I was," he said. "I like to go."

Last year some friends told them how nice the weather was in Maggie Valley, N.C., a resort near Ridgecrest. So the couple traveled there by motor home from their home in Mobile, Ala.

"While we were at Maggie Valley, Frank noticed some information about Ridgecrest on the back of Open Windows [a LifeWay-produced devotional guide] when he was having his daily prayer time," Ruby said. "When we saw there was a campground, we thought we'd check it out."

Frank said he called Ridgecrest for reservations and discovered most people who stay at the campground were either conference participants or volunteer workers. So he discussed the volunteer program with Melissa Marlowe, administrative associate and supervisor of coordinators and volunteers at Ridgecrest, and was intrigued.

"[Ruby and I] talked about it and decided to sign on as volunteers for two weeks but wound up staying four months," Frank said of their experience at Ridgecrest in 1999.

"There was just something exciting here," Ruby said.

This year, Marlowe thought of the Jacksons when she was considering volunteer coordinators for the months of April through November.

"I was just about ready to call them when the phone rang," Marlowe said. "It was Ruby saying they'd like to come back to Ridgecrest this year. I told her, 'I have something for you to do!'"

The Jacksons agreed to take on the position of volunteer coordinator for this year. One of their tasks is working with Marlowe to sort through the volunteer applications and select workers.

"[Frank] has the spiritual gift of discernment and he just seems to know who would be suited for serving here," Marlowe said.

Frank said, "We have every kind of people here you can imagine. We have a farmer who is a millionaire dipping ice cream at the Nibble Nook. We've got a retired airline executive who repairs furniture. There is a school superintendent, retired military officers, and three schoolteachers who have over 40 years of experience. They all volunteer here, serving as cooks, construction workers, everything."

With a laugh, Ruby said that last year she had served in the Nibble Nook, making milkshakes. "It was so fun," she said. "I had always wanted to do that! When I was a girl, my mother would never let me work at the drugstore, and that's the only place you made milkshakes back then."

Another volunteer had always wanted to work a telephone switchboard, Ruby said. "That's what she got to do. A place like Ridgecrest lets you live out your dreams."

This year's volunteers at Ridgecrest range in age from about 60 up to 83, according to Frank, who said he finds age has little to do with a person's ability to serve.

"There are people here in their 80's who have the mind and stamina of someone in their 60's. A lot of people just come alive and get recharged with serving here."

So much so, he added, that two couples have met their mates here and gotten married.

Several of the volunteers come back to Ridgecrest in the fall to work the Chautauqua conferences, Ruby said. They also help close up Camp Ridgecrest for Boys and Camp Crestridge for Girls.

"We built the new steps, painted the cabins, that kind of stuff," Frank said. "We kept thinking how nice it'd

be for the boys and girls when they got back this summer."

He added, "This is a ministry first of all. Our volunteers see it as that."

The volunteers meet every Tuesday evening for a time of prayer, said Ruby, who calls the time one of the highlights of the whole week. Prayer requests are shared, and the group prays for every request mentioned. Then Ruby takes the list home with her and prays daily for each request for the rest of the week.

Frank said, "Ruby is a pray-er. She usually knows the answers to things before I do. After we'd been here last year, she knew God wanted us back this year. I just listen to what she tells me!"



## A FEW OLD SOREHEADS

One of our fine towns here in Mississippi is the community of Puckett. If you have never had the privilege of visiting Puckett, you ought to take the time to go.

The sign that welcomes you into Puckett says, "The Home of Three Hundred Good, Friendly Folks and a Few Old Soreheads." I cannot tell you the number of times I have been through Puckett and every time I read that sign it always draws a chuckle out of my heart.

I have often wondered who thought up that slogan, or was it just a matter of observing the folks in Puckett? I have wondered, "Who are the soreheads?" I have also wondered if they stayed the same or if they rotate the number of soreheads each day. Where do they go to church, those few soreheads? Are they Baptists? Methodists? Or, are they some other denomination? Do they disperse the soreheads equally among the churches? Are they men, or women? Young, or old? Do the soreheads work in Puckett, or do they commute each day and work at businesses in Jackson?

As you can tell, the "Welcome to Puckett" sign has



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

had a profound impact on me. Why would I think it is so important? Well, of the many things that the Bible says a Christian is supposed to be, one of them is to be hospitable. "Use hospitality," the Scripture says.

Folks here in Mississippi pride themselves in being the "Hospitality State," and we consider ourselves to be on the cutting edge of being hospitable. Yet, this characteristic in Scripture goes even beyond southern hospitality.

As Christians, we are to have a gracious, gentle openness about us. Our spirits are to be gentle and our attitudes laced with grace. There is no way to measure the full effect of hospitality. I have often wondered how many people are going to spend eternity in Hell, not because they failed to hear a clear Gospel message, or enjoy good singing,

or respond to a meaningful, life-centered Sunday School lesson — but because of the attitude and the lack of hospitality shown to them.

More and more of our churches have appointed or elected "greeters" rather than ushers. Often it will be a husband and wife team at the door making sure those arriving feel welcomed, and making sure their needs are cared for and their spirits refreshed. That's good, but what is even better is when all of us, everyone — young and old, men and women, pastor and staff, laity — feel a sense of appointment to graciously reach out to those who come to worship.

When people enter into our churches they ought to feel, through us, what Jesus said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Baptists keep growing in their understanding of the Lord and in their understanding of worship. I can remember, long years ago, hearing people say something like, "the music prepares us to worship God." While that may be true, more clearly stated would be for us to understand that the music is worshipping God. Yet, it goes beyond that, for our encounter with the Lord does not begin when the prelude starts, or some praise team begins leading us in songs. It begins before you even enter the door and receive a worship guide or bulletin. It begins even before you come into the sanctuary. It begins with relationships, and contacts, and a spirit that is expressed out in the parking lot, or maybe on the drive to the service. It may even begin before you get into the car at home.

God is at work in calling from us our best in praise, in prayer, in care for others — in "hospitality." Our churches are filled with all sorts of folks and they are filled with all sorts of needs.

All are welcomed — "Bigheads," "Deadheads," even "Soreheads" — for all need a touch from God.

**FUN, NOT WORK** — Being a volunteer at Ridgecrest isn't work; it's fun, say Ruby and Frank Jackson, volunteer coordinators for Ridgecrest, a LifeWay Conference Center. Frank, a retired chief of police in Chickasaw, Ala., said he has always loved to travel. "The only place I've ever been unsatisfied was where I was," he said. "I like to go." In photo Frank and Ruby go over the day's schedule. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

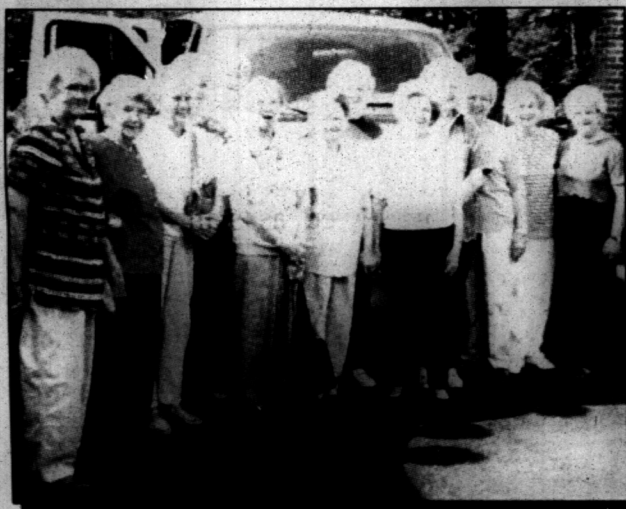




**GA Recognition Service** was held at First Church, Terry, on June 4. Following the service, the GAs were honored with a reception. Pictured (from left) are Bethany Pope, Erica Matthews, Kayla Hensarling, Blaire Whitehead, Samantha Green, Amber Henry; (second row) Claire Myers, Brandi Ray, Rachael Thompson, Rebecca Johns, Hailey Foster, Stacey Dukes, Carolyn Williamson, Lakyn Dailey; (third row) Brittney Williams, Blaire Jones, Claire Ivers, Kathy Brisendine, Morgan Jenkins, and Crystal Green. Sixth graders received their World Venture and camp badges and were honored with the gift of a Bible.

**Old Union Church, Shannon**, will have special Memorial Day and Senior Adult Day services on Aug. 6. A covered dish lunch will follow the 11 a.m. service. Kenneth Kelly, pastor, will lead the services.

**The ladies of WMU at Dixie Church, Hattiesburg**, recently carried supplies to the Dea Nash Children's Village in Wiggins.



WMU of Dixie Church, Hattiesburg

**Youth, ages 12-18**, of Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa, left July 26 for North Greenville College, S. C. for Centrifuge. Over 600 youth participated in this personal Bible revival study. The youth who attended Centrifuge camp are Mark McEachern, Ryan Ogborn, Scott Pack, Lee Gregory, Wesley Nelson, Steven Martin, Chris McCormick, Patrick White, Riley Ogborn, Lloyd Oliver, Adam Townsend, Miranda Crews, Janna Johnston, Ashlee Richardson, Melissa Lofton, Katie Miles, Britany Griffin, Heather White, Danielle Oliver, and Julie Cole. Jim McEachern is the youth minister.

**Alta Woods Church, Jackson**, will present Bill Daniel, tenor soloist, in concert, Aug. 6 at 5:30 p.m. A fellowship will follow the concert.

**Molly Fairchild**, a ventriloquist from Moselle, will speak to the Lamar Association Girls in Action on Aug. 5, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Lamar Association Conference Center. For more information, call the association at (601) 268-7334.

**A group of 51 students and adults** from Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, traveled to Quito, Ecuador, on June 22. In Quito, the group participated in outreach activities by initiating volleyball, soccer, and basketball games in a city park. Participants were invited to attend a youth rally at

Ellkesia Church that evening. Next, the group traveled to Amabato, where the work was divided into two main parts: construction in the morning, and Vacation Bible School (VBS) in the afternoon. The construction work was done at Ficoa Baptist Church, the largest Baptist church in the city. Three work teams tackled the tasks of painting the sanctuary and exterior of the



**The youth from Bethesda Church, Terry**, spent a morning sorting food at the Mississippi Food Network. Pictured (from left, top row) are Tent Bell, minister of youth; LaCresa Bell; Lauren Dulaney; Emalee Bell; Kristy Parish; Allison Bell; Christina Reese; (bottom row) Allen Bridgers; Ashley Harper; Jamie Moore; Brittany Bishop; Lacy Dulaney; and James French.



Students and adults of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo

building, building benches to be used as pews for area churches, and constructing sliding-door partitions to divide a basement area into several Sunday School rooms. VBS was held at three locations, ranging from schools to parks, with over 600 children

in total attendance. The group participated in other youth rallies, and a cultural exchange with high school students. They also traveled to Mitad del Mundo (the Equator) and the thermal pool of Papallacta, before returning home on July 1.



**Women on Mission** at Eastside Church, Belzoni, recently held a luncheon in celebration of WMU's birthday.

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FARMVILLE, LOUISIANA** is seeking a full-time minister of youth and a full-time minister of music. Please send resumes to Youth or Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 296, Farmville, La 71241.

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**BRIARLAKE BAPTIST CHURCH OF DECATUR, GA.**, is seeking a minister of music and worship for its 2700 member Southern Baptist congregation in the metro Atlanta area. Send cover letter and resume to Betty Lou Lark, 2058 Brian Way, Decatur, GA 30033.



**Mississippi College (MC)** summer graduation exercises are to be held at 10 a.m. in the A.E. Wood Coliseum on Aug. 5. Jayne A. Burrows Sargent, superintendent of schools, Jackson Public School District, will be the guest speaker. Degrees for approximately 135 graduates will be conferred by MC President Howell W. Todd.

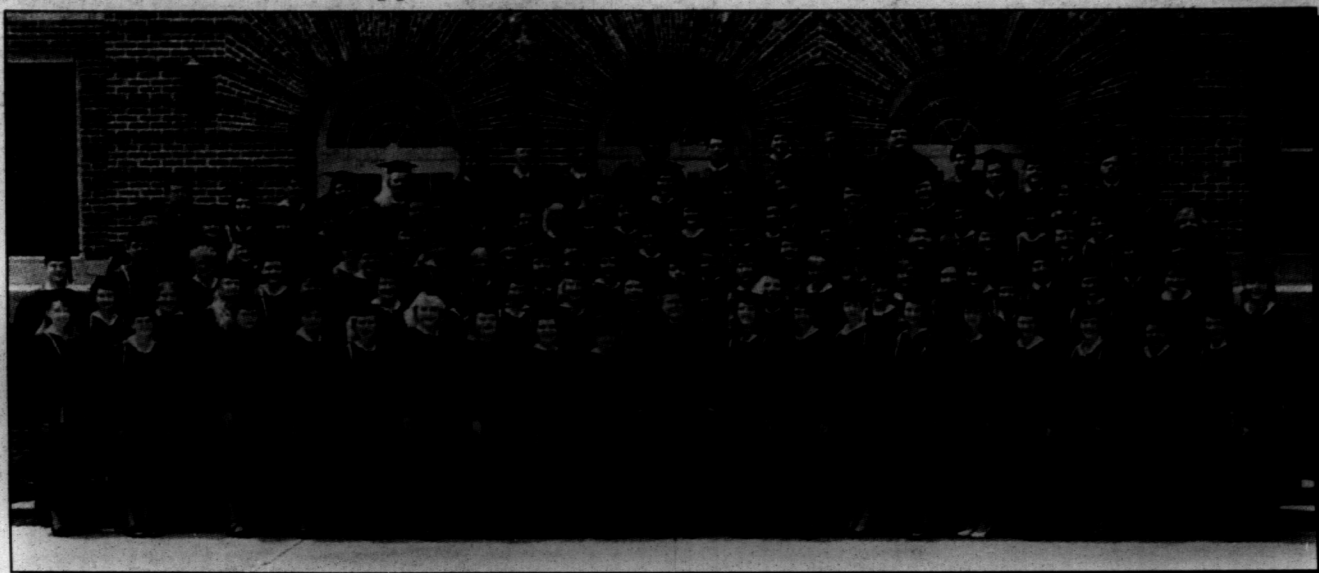
**Approximately 170 students** will receive degrees at William Carey College's commencement exercises to be held Aug. 5 at 10 a.m. in the Dumas Smith Auditorium in the Thomas Fine Arts Building on the Hattiesburg campus. The commencement speaker will be Myron Noonkester, professor and chair of the history department. He will serve as interim dean of

Arts, Humanities and Science beginning in August. Cloyd Ezell, vice president for academic affairs, will present candidates and Larry Kennedy, president, will confer degrees.

**Approximately 94 students** will receive degrees at the William Carey College on the Coast commencement to be held on Aug. 5 at 2:30 p.m. at First Church of Gulfport. The commencement speaker will be LaRue Stephens, pastor of First Church of Long Beach. Stephens received a master of divinity degree and a doctor of arts in philosophy at New Orleans Seminary. Cloyd Ezell, vice president for academic affairs, will present candidates and Larry Kennedy, president, will confer degrees.

**Lloyd E. Roberts**, a native of Moss Point, has been appointed Vice President for Business Affairs at Mississippi

College (MC) effective Aug. 1. Roberts currently serves as dean of MC's School of Business.



**Al Green** began his ministry as pastor of First Church, Bay St. Louis, on July 1. He previously served 16 years in Argentina with the Foreign Mission Board/International Mission Board. Prior to his service in missions, Green served churches in Gautier, Petal, and Gulfport. He is a 1976 graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

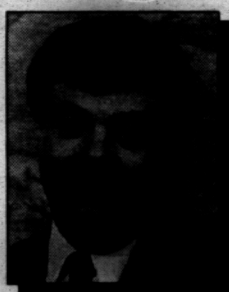


Green

**Macedonia Church, Brookhaven**, has called **Jerry Peagler** as minister of music and outreach effective July 23. A native of Morton, Peagler received his education at Delta State University and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Raleigh.

**Antioch Church, Itawamba Association**, has called **James Rutledge** of Amory as pastor effective July 1. Rutledge has pastored churches in Pontotoc, Union, Monroe, Lee, and Winston counties. He received his education at Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as pastor of Splunge Church, Monroe Association.

**Big Ridge Church, Biloxi**, has called **Ray Wuerzer** as pastor effective June 11. Wuerzer received his education at Cumberland College in Kentucky and New Orleans Seminary. His previous places of service include Central Church, Selma, Ala., and Robinson Road Church, Gulfport.



Wuerzer

**Main Street Church, Hattiesburg**, has called **Argile A. Smith** as interim pastor effective Aug. 1. A native of Poplarville, Smith is chairman of the division of Pastoral Ministries at New Orleans Seminary. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. After serving pastorates in Mississippi and Louisiana, Smith returned to the seminary as a member of the faculty in 1993.

**New Hope Church, Meridian**, has called **Cliff Pace** as pastor. Pace received his education at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) and is currently enrolled in the Clinton extension center of NOBTS. His previous place of service was Bentonia Church, Bentonia.

**Mt. Vernon Church, Columbus**, has called **Doug Bedgood** as associate pastor in education. He previously served at New Life Church, Milton, Fla.

**Old Hebron Church, New Hebron**, has called **Eddie Myers** from Oakvale as pastor. Myers previously served at Old Silver Creek Church.

**Bay Springs Church, Bay Springs**, has called **Brian Tillman** as pastor effective June 25. A native of Houston, Tillman recently graduated from Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. He previously served as staff minister at First Church, Durham, N.C.



Tillman

**Reggie L. Bridges** has resigned as pastor of Canaan Church, Ashland, effective June 25. He plans to continue his education at New Orleans Seminary. Bridges is available for pulpit supply and can be contacted at 3A K. T. Lane, Carriere, MS 39426 or phone (601) 799-0519.

**Don Taylor** resigned the pastorate of Jerusalem Church, Hammond, La., to enter full time evangelism. He is available for revivals, crusades, marriage enrichment conferences, and pulpit supply. Taylor can be contacted at 1086 Morrow Rd., Conehatta, MS 39057 or call (601) 635-3695.

## MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**OPENING FOR EXPERIENCED PIANIST** at Southside Baptist Church, Jackson. If you want to use your talent for the Lord's work in our community, please call Bill at 601-974-2300 (day) or 601-372-4773 (evening).

**SMALL CHURCH IN SOUTH MS SEEKS PASTOR.** Send resume to: Neely Baptist Church, P.O. Box 304, Neely, MS 39461.

**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED.** Send resume to: Providence Baptist Church, c/o Dicky Taylor, 301 Fayette Davis Avenue, Cleveland, MS 38732.

**COLLEGE MINISTER NEEDED.** Bi-vocational 25-30 hours/week. Please send resume to Morrison Heights Baptist Church, 201 Morrison Drive, Clinton, MS 39056 or fax to 601-924-5622, Attn: Jennifer.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC AND YOUTH NEEDED** for Ruleville Baptist Church. Send resume to Higdon Herrington, P.O. Box 187, Ruleville, MS 38771. Telephone: 662-756-4309 or 662-756-2873.

**PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER NEEDED.** Sunday evening service optional. Services are a blend of traditional hymns and praise songs. Located about 15 miles south of Greenwood; 70 miles north of Jackson. Contact Freddie Matthews, Cruger Baptist Church, 662-453-0009.

**ARLIS NICHOLS - CHRISTIAN HUMORIST.** A ministry of encouragement and motivation. Now scheduling for Fall/Winter of 2000-2001. Phone 601-659-9991 or write to: 1142 County Road 375, Enterprise, MS 39330. E-mail: Arlis@Nichols.net. Website: www.Arlis.Nichols.net.

**BILOXI, MS., HAS OPENING** for a bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to East Howard Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 241 Howard Ave., Biloxi, MS 39530.

**CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES DIRECTOR NEEDED.** Please send resume to Morrison Heights Baptist Church, 201 Morrison Drive, Clinton 39056 or fax to 601-924-5622, Attn: Jennifer.

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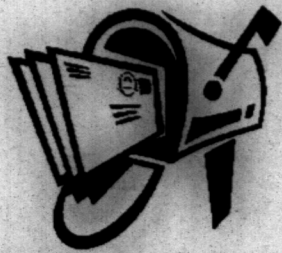
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### HEART FOR MISSIONS

Editor:

We are rejoicing in God's faithfulness through Southern Baptists as more than \$105 million was given this past year to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) for International Missions. Having experienced seven consecutive years of record missionary appointments, we are assured of needed support for our growing missionary force by this unprecedented level of giving to the LMCO and Cooperative Program.

As our books closed on the annual mission offering May 31 we found that Mississippi Baptists had the second highest per capita giving of other states, almost double the national average! Thank you for your heart for missions and for your partnership with the International Mission Board (IMB).

Your generous and faithful giving is helping to dispel the darkness as we seek to finish the unfinished task of reaching a lost world.

Jerry Rankin, IMB president  
Richmond, Va.

### PASTOR NEEDED

Editor:

Fillmore Church in Fillmore, Utah, is looking for a pastor. Our church can provide housing, pay utility bills, and pay about \$100 per week

to someone who feels led to spend a few years on a mission field. So, a layman or preacher who has another income or would like to be a bi-vocational minister would be perfect.

Those interested may write to 275 W. 400 N., Fillmore, UT 84631 or call me at (435) 743-8616, or e-mail me at mcmcms@juno.com.

J. D. Stephens  
Fillmore, UT

### STUDENTS SOUGHT

Editor:

Every year students from across the country come to Lexington, Va., to begin four years of schooling at either Virginia Military Institute or Washington and Lee University or come to Roanoke, Va., at Hollins University. It is often very difficult to locate the Baptist students or students who may be interested in Baptist Student Union before they arrive to the area. I would greatly appreciate any assistance from the churches in your state in helping me to locate these students before the 2000-2001 school year begins.

I can be reached at 120 W. Nelson Street, Lexington, VA 24450 or (540) 463-5366 or natkline@hotmail.com.

Natalie Kline  
Baptist Campus Minister  
Lexington, Va.

### STUDENTS SOUGHT, TOO

Editor:

Cults are growing at an alarming rate in New England. Using non-invasive strategies and techniques, they appear as helpful and concerned. Your son or daughter will be far away from home, perhaps for the first time. Please allow us, your Baptist Collegiate Ministry, to have a chance to meet and help orientate them to their campus.

Are there students from your state who will be enrolling in one of the many colleges/universities in New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont)? The Baptist Convention of New England serves these six states and has ministries on many of the campuses.

On most campuses we do not have access to a religious preference list and therefore have no way of knowing if Southern Baptist students are enrolled. We need persons in

the churches of your state to help us contact them. New England and Baptist Collegiate Ministries are small but growing as we seek new ministry opportunities. We are eager to provide assistance and ministry to those who come to any of the great institutions in our area.

If any of your readers have family, friends, or fellow church members who are coming to college in New England, we would like to know who they are and how to contact them.

We would be happy to meet them at airports or train stations, and help them in any way. We will ensure that someone is in touch with them immediately.

Please send information to Collegiate Ministries, Baptist Convention of New England, 87 Lincoln Street, Northborough, MA 01532, (508) 393-6013; fax (508) 393-6016.

John Ramirez  
Baptist Convention of New  
England  
Northborough, MA

## HOMECOMINGS

**Rock Bluff (Rankin):** Aug. 6; 10:30 a.m.; Mike Clark, pastor, speaker; Southland Boys from Collins, featured singers; dinner on the grounds following services.

**Rocky Springs (Yazoo):** celebrating 140 years; Aug. 6; 11 a.m.; James Tucker, former pastor, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds at noon.

**Cedar View, Olive Branch:** 37th anniversary; Aug. 13; Ed Schuler, guest speaker; potluck dinner and a concert by The Landmarks; Bob Mizell, interim pastor.

**Whitesand, Prentiss:** Aug. 13; 10:30 a.m.; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall; Charles Wesley, Rayville, La., speaker; Chuck Myers, Brandon, music; Stan Cheatham, pastor.

**Center Ridge, Yazoo City:** Aug. 13; celebrating 108 years; 10:30 a.m.-noon; followed by covered dish luncheon.

**Crossroads, Decatur:** Aug. 13; 10 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Pat Nations, speaker; special music by the Gibbs Family of Lake.

**Palmer, Ripley:** Aug. 13; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; worship at 11 a.m., with Bruce Cappleman, former pastor, speaking; potluck lunch will be served after morning service; afternoon program after lunch will be the Steeple Dedication Service with Glen Reeder, pastor, speaking.

**Juniper Grove (Pearl River):** Aug. 13; dinner will be served at noon; Phil Hanberry, former

pastor, guest speaker; Carl Myers, interim pastor.

**D'Lo, D'Lo:** Aug. 20; Ronnie Robinson, executive director at the Baptist Children's Village, speaker; Jeff Sanders, D'Lo Church, music; Robert Sones, pastor.

**Sunrise, Petal:** homecoming and 100 years; Aug. 6; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; afternoon song service; Carlton Burnett, former pastor, and Rell Webber, former music minister, will be leading in worship; call the church at (601) 583-1850 for more information.

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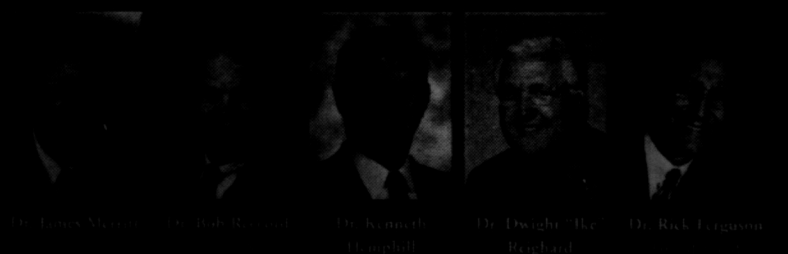
## NEXT LEVEL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

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## NAIL DOWN ISSUE

Editor:

I take umbrage at the North American Mission Board (NAMB) trustees' decision to disqualify from holding field appointments in a pastoral role any minister who has remarried, though he fits the biblical exception clause of the existing NAMB divorce policy, while at the same time allowing him to serve in non-pastoral ministries. My question to (NAMB president) Bob Reccord, who states their reasoning behind this prohibitive decision to be biblical and consistent with the standard of God's Word: Why choose only one of the more than a dozen qualifications listed in the Timothy passage to pontifically blacklist a God-called man from ministering his specific calling to any local New Testament church?

What should disqualify a man from ministry is not whether he has remarried, but does he still have a heart toward God? Surely if we can use the teachings of an adulterer, King David, and the teachings of an overt fornicator, King Solomon, both of whom were guilty men, we can continue to verify in ministry and service a pastor who is innocent.

May I exhort these trustees and all New Testament churches to nail down this issue of remarriage after divorce? If it is wrong, then it is wrong for all men, not just pastors.

We as a denomination need to stop worrying about image and remember that God never looks on the outward man, but on the inward. It is the motive of our hearts about which God has ever been concerned!

Wyatt Harvey  
Meridian

## WORD IS AUTHORITY

Editor:

I read with disbelief the debate over divorce and serving as pastor or missionary. My understanding of the Scripture [is] that to re-marry after a divorce is what Jesus said was a sin (Matt. 19:9). There is no disqualification of a man who has been divorced from serving as pastor.

I also understand that First Church, Atlanta, asked the pastor to stay with an overwhelming vote. In the first place, Baptist organizations have no control over churches.

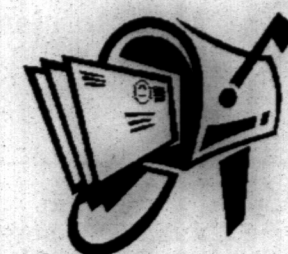
The North American Mission Board (NAMB) is the mission arm of Southern Baptists and NAMB places these missionaries, giving them the right to set standards. I believe the policy should be the same regarding divorce for both. Who are

those that have been refused? Do you critics know? Maybe they are remarried. If not, I cannot find where God's Word disqualifies them. If missionaries ask to go under NAMB, they are employees of NAMB and subject to NAMB rules.

On the question of women pastors, Paul gave instruction to Timothy in 1 Tim. 3:2 - "A bishop (pastor) must be...the husband of one wife." Paul did not say the "wife of one husband." There is no plainer English. God made no provision in his Word for women as pastors nor ordained. This is no reflection on women. God made no provision for men to give birth. Should we men pretend that we give birth to children? Some women pretend that God called them to pastor.

The Word of God is authority on all matter.

Charles S. Rodgers  
Hazlehurst



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

## REVIVAL DATES

**Berwick, Liberty:** Aug. 4-6; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by fellowship dinner and 12:45 p.m. service; Alton Foster, preaching; Steve Jackson, Pike County, music; Joe A. Jackson, pastor.

**First, McLaurin (Lebanon):** Aug. 6-10; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m., dinner at noon, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Valton Douglas, Columbia, evangelist; Miriam Easterling, Brooklyn, music; Carlis Braswell, pastor.

**Jerusalem (Attala):** Aug. 6-9; Sunday (homecoming) 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon services; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; James Messer, Theodore, Ala., evangelist; Rita Pettit and Nina Riley, Kosciusko, music; Johnny Parks, pastor.

**Calhoun, Hot Coffee:** Aug. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m.; lunch will be served followed by an afternoon service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Keith Thompson, Taylorsville, evangelist; Vanessa King, Tylertown, music.

**Strong River, Pinola:** Aug. 6-11; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Mike Alexander, Adrian, Ga., evangelist; Steve Walker, Pinola, music.

**Griffin Street, Moss Point:** Aug. 6-9; 7 p.m. nightly; Anthony Underwood, Laurel, evangelist; Jimmy Miller, Pascagoula, music; Tommy Kendrick, pastor.

**Longview, Starkville:** Aug. 5-9; Sat., prayer for revival, 7 p.m.; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Chriss Deupree, Pearl, evangelist; Jim Lott, Pearl, music; Steve Huber, pastor.

**Rock Bluff (Rankin):** Aug. 7-9; 7:30 p.m.; Jackie Duplechain, guest speaker; Ray Gates, music; Mike Clark, pastor.

**Wayside (Warren):** Aug. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; Bud Shiers, Wayside Church, music; Larry W. Haggard, pastor.

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**Holcomb (North Central):** Aug. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Phil Weatherwax, Memphis, Tenn., evangelist; Bob Morris, Greenwood, music; Randy Ashley, pastor.

**Old Hebron (Jefferson Davis):** Aug. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the ground, and 1:15 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Hiram Campbell, Foxworth, evangelist; Tim Morrison, music; Eddie Myers, pastor.

**New Hope, Foxworth:** Aug. 13-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. with covered dish lunch, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jim Ray, Bunker Hill, evangelist; Bill Herman, Petal, music; Kent Campbell, pastor.

**Clear Springs (Yalobusha):** Aug. 13-16; Sunday, 11 a.m., 6 p.m., and a meal Sunday night; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Bryan Abel, Water Valley, evangelist; Lonnie Waller, pastor.

**New Hope, Amory:** Aug. 6-11; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Greg Herndon, evangelist; Terry Benton, pastor.



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## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Source of life Colossians 1:1-29

By Juanita West

Although Paul did not found the church at Colossae, the church start must have come as a direct result of his ministry in the area. When the believers began having trouble with the growth of false teachings, Paul did not hesitate to send them instructions and encouragement on their proper walk with Christ.

**Sufficient Son (vv. 15-20).** Paul's desire for the Colossian believers was the same as that for the Philippian and Ephesian Christians: "That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in

the knowledge of God" (v. 10).

In verses 15-20, Paul cataloged seven reasons for Christ's preeminence in the Christian life. "These verses are generally recognized as an early Christian hymn celebrating the supremacy of Jesus Christ" (The Nelson Study Bible, p. 2011).

Jesus is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn over all creation (v. 1). All things were created through him and for him (v. 16). Jesus is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead (v. 18). All of God's fullness dwells in him, (v. 19) and through Christ, God will reconcile all things to himself (v. 20).



West

the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians, p. 122).

**Stable faith (vv. 21-23).** Paul used the doctrine of reconciliation as a reminder to the Colossians of when they too were alienated and enemies in their minds by wicked works (v. 21).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary states "People are not inwardly hostile VS. God because of their outward acts of sins; they commit sins because they are inwardly hostile" (p. 674). Yet, Paul recounts that we have been reconciled to God because of Christ's physical death on the cross.

Jesus "came to heal the breach and bridge the chasm between God and man. The initiative in reconciliation was with God. His one object in sending his Son into the world was to woo men back to himself to reconcile all things to himself" (William Barclay, The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians, p. 122).

The Gnostic teaching at Colossae claimed that "redemption could come only from a spiritual being, and they rejected Christ's incarnation" (Nelson Study Bible, p. 2012).

Paul encouraged the believers to remember that, "he [Christ] has reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in his sight" (vv. 21b-22).

For this reason, Paul admonished the believers to "continue in faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard" (v. 23). Believers are to stand firm and not let philosophies of the day weaken their faith.

**Solid mission (vv. 24-28).** In each of his epistles written from the Roman prison, Paul told his readers that he rejoiced in his sufferings. He indicated that he recognized his sufferings as that which a Christian will endure. He faced his troubles

with joy because it was the mission God had given him.

Paul rejoiced in his ability to share with the Gentiles the "mystery" that God had revealed through his saints — "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (v. 26).

Paul's passion was to share God's Word with all men. In verse 23, he stated, "the gospel" was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister."

Of course, Paul had not preached to all creatures under heaven, but his statement shows the universality of the Gospel and the extent of his heart that "him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (v. 28).

Do we have the same passion to share with others? "Christ in you, the hope of glory?"

West is a member of Calvary Church, Newton.

## LIFE AND WORK

### The way to spiritual freedom Galatians 3:15-4:7

By Matt Loving

Many people who do not know Christ feel trapped by their passions and by feelings of guilt and failure. Others feel that their goodness does not measure up to God's perfection. The harder they try to please God the more they feel enslaved by their moral failure.

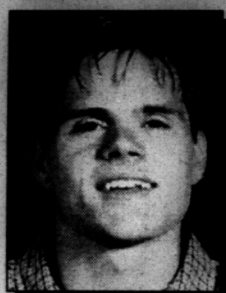
At the same time, many believers have allowed "freedom robbers" into their lives such as their past, bitterness, unforgiveness, or listening to lies.

Jesus came to free people from spiritual bondage if they will but put their faith in him. He also came to restore people to a right relationship with God and com-

manded us to "take off the grave clothes" (John 11:43-44).

One definition of freedom is a "state of being at liberty rather than confinement or under physical restraint (The American College Dictionary, p. 484). Freedom in Christ, then, means that he delivers those who place their faith in him from the confining control of anything or anyone whose purposes are contrary to God's purposes. Thus he delivers you into his purposes for you.

God's standards that he gives us are not burdensome. They allow us to grow into the healthy and godly people that he intended since time began.



Loving

The book of Galatians provides much insight into this extremely important foundational aspect of spiritual freedom.

**The promise that endures (3:15-18).** These verses reveal that God had made a promise to redeem Abraham and those who would place their faith in him. The Law that was given to the Israelites did not nullify the original promise, but rather further revealed that his promise is based on his goodness not humanity's.

**The law that instructs (3:19-25).** God gave the Law as a guide to show how we need freedom from the bondage of sin. Verse 22 explains that the whole world is a slave to sin.

In the Law we find God's standards for us. However, our efforts to keep the law alone cannot free us from spiritual bondage. The Law acted as the

pathway, or was "put in charge to lead us to Christ." This is how we are made right and set free spiritually — faith in Christ.

**The Son who frees (4:4-7).** Jesus came in keeping with God's purpose and plan to provide freedom from the bondage of sin that we would "receive the full rights of sons." This passage explains that it is evidenced in the heart of a person when they give themselves to God and let him take control. God also makes us sons and heirs bringing us into the freedom of being in his purpose for living.

The truth here is that God created us to know him. Faith in Christ to make us right with God restores us to where we belong. Freedom in Christ is not a license to sin. When you truly surrender your being to the Lord, your heart's desire is to please him. It's not about us — it's about Jesus.

There will be things in your life God will continually show

you that hinder your abiding in him. However, you will gladly drop those "grave clothes" because it is Jesus who has called you from death to life.

Examine your life to see whether you are in the faith and if you are, examine whether or not there are hindrances of sin in your life.

This truth was explained well by Oswald Chambers when he wrote that "if we have received the Spirit of God, He will squeeze right through our lives, as if to ask, 'now where do I come into this relationship, this vacation you have planned, or these new books you want to read?' And He always presses the point until we learn to make Him our first consideration. Whenever we put other things first, there is confusion...the greatest word of Jesus to His disciples is abandon" (My Utmost For His Highest, May 23 devotional).

Loving is minister of youth at Oak Hill Church, Poplarville.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Doom for false religion

Revelation 17:6-13; 18:2, 3-5

By Tommy Bufkin

There is a confusion of religions in our world today. There are old world religions, deviations from Christianity, cults, New Age mysticism, and occult practices.

In his book, How Now Shall We Live, Chuck Colson contends that all these ultimately fail. Only Christianity fits the known facts and answers the big questions in life. Colson sees this age as having the greatest potential for evangelism as other religions and philosophies fail.

Christians need to be aware of the dangers of false religions and help others see its deception and ultimate failure.

**Beware the deception**

(17:6-13). The woman is identified as Babylon, which to the Jews represented the worst of wickedness and oppression. Many feel that this is a label for Rome with its seven hills (17:9). Rome was the center for emperor worship.

The woman certainly represents a false and corrupted religion. She is pictured sitting on the beast — dependent on Satan and supported by him. She has led many away from God.

She was responsible for the deaths of believers. She was not only responsible for them but revealed it. John marveled at her deceptive beauty and viciousness.

An angel is sent to explain



Bufkin

the meaning of the woman and beast. They form one mystery. Attempts have been made to identify the seven heads and ten horns as various world leaders and kings in history. Certainly they refer to world power and various nations that will rise to power. False religion and corrupt world power advance the cause of Satan.

This beast "was, and is not, and is." This seems to be a parody of God (see 1:4). Contrasted to the eternal God, world power is constantly rising and falling. Some who identify the beast as the Antichrist see this as a prediction that the Antichrist will die and be resurrected. The beast will be utterly defeated.

Unbelievers will be shocked to see the one they follow defeated. The people of God, however, will understand.

"Seven mountains" seem to refer to Rome, the seat of world

power, and represents that power throughout the ages. World powers come and go but their time is short. Seven indicates completeness. The beast is the eighth which stands for the completeness of demonic power. He is the last of the power, yet he appeared in each of the preceding world powers. All world powers will pass away and the last (that of the great beast) will fall. The beast will be cast down.

**Avoid punishment (18:2a, 3-5).** The angel with the authority of God announces the destruction of false, corrupt religion. It is intensified by repetition. The doom will be devastating and final. The word "fallen" declares a future event as if it already were accomplished (see 14:8).

False religion will be destroyed because it deceives and corrupts people. It leads people away from God and toward sin and rebellion. Nations, rulers, and merchants indicate all areas of power and control. All have turned from

God, wooed by a false belief system. Because of that, all have suffered greatly.

Another message comes not from an angel, but directly from God himself. The true church, God's people, are to avoid the principles and practices of false religion. Christians are not to compromise the truth. God warns that those who compromise will suffer for it.

False religion will have much for which to answer. There may be an allusion here to the tower of Babel through which man had tried to reach the heavens. False religion leads people to build towers of sin that are doomed to failure. "God has remembered her iniquities" indicates judgment. None escaped the wrath of God.

Believers must be true to the true faith. They should not let false belief systems delude them, but instead, present the truth in love to a lost world.

Bufkin is pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Rankin Association.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Weslie & Darnell Causey  
Michael & Lisa Forman  
Mr. James A. Price Jr.  
**Mr. James Wiggins**  
Mrs. Dot Griffin  
**Vera Wilbanks**  
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Lynch  
**Mrs. Edrie Wilkins**  
Mr. Leslie Wilkins  
**Johnnie F. Williams**  
Mr. Norman Weathersby Jr.  
**Lida May Williams**  
Mrs. Mera C. Hall  
**Truman Williams**  
Mr. & Mrs. Luther Roy Adams  
**Mr. David Wilson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy W. Armstrong  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Goff  
**Mrs. Ethel Windham**  
Thirteenth Avenue Pharmacy &  
Staff  
**Elizabeth (Libba) Ball Wingate**  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O.  
Crosthwait Jr.  
**Mrs. Dorothy Winstead**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Flint  
Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Peery  
**Mrs. Key Woods**  
Ann Smith  
Jayne Woods  
**Beverly "Dawn" Wright**  
Rankin Academy Class of 1980  
**Wendell Jerome Yeatman**  
Dorcas SSC, FBC-Starkville  
**Mrs. Sara Kemp Young**  
Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Huntley Jr.

### JUNE 1-30, 2000 HONORS

**Mr. Perry Atherton**  
Mrs. Virginia H. Atherton  
**Murray Basden**  
Ms. Julia R. Basden  
Elizabeth Dugger  
**Everett & Jane Cole**  
Ms. Carolyn Palmer  
**Carlton Edmondson, Jr.**  
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton W.  
Edmondson  
**Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Leggett**  
Mr. Mark Leggett  
**Mrs. Mary Ella B. Magee**  
Miss Ina Lou Patten  
**Mrs. Wanda Owen**  
Mrs. Frances Tumey  
**Marlin & Tawana Venable**  
Ms. Cynthia D. Davis

### JUNE 1-30, 2000 MEMORIALS

**Bill Aldridge, Jr.**  
Jim, Cindy & Ryan McCurdy  
Bobbie Roberson  
Joe Gross  
**L. D. Alexander**  
Graeber Brothers, Inc.  
**Murry Alexander**  
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Davis  
**Virginia Morrison Arledge**  
Mrs. Mera C. Hall  
**Fred C. Bailey**  
Evelyn O. Manning  
Foy Lee Osborn  
Wayne Osborn  
Ms. Ruby Williams  
Betty Brown  
Barby White  
**Mrs. Virgie Bailey**  
Mrs. Anna W. Simmons  
**Mr. "Tiny" Baker**  
Jim, Cindy & Ryan McCurdy  
**Mr. R. Harville "Tiny" Baker**  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen King  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul H. Stanley  
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh E. Linder  
**Terri Baker**  
Hope Howard Hawkins  
**Mr. Lonnie Balcom**  
Dorcas SSC, Bowmar Ave BC-  
Vicksburg  
**Mr. Herbert Paul Ballard**  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Ballard  
**Mrs. Lois Bell**  
Mrs. Imogene L. Penn  
**Effie Bennett**  
Graeber Brothers, Inc.  
**Mr. Frank Berry, Sr.**  
Mrs. Linda Williams  
**Marie Berry**  
Mrs. Sarah N. Shaw  
**Rev. Marvin D. Bibb**  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Ballard  
**Mrs. Jackie B. Biggs**  
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Copeland  
**Johnathan Allen Binns**  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael M. Binns  
**Virginia Boggs**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dorrance Aultman  
**Bonie Boutwell**  
Thirteenth Avenue Pharmacy &  
Staff  
**Mr. Herman Bradley**  
Cornerstone SSC, Temple BC-  
Hattiesburg  
Elizabeth P. Tullos Family  
**Dr. Robert (Bob) Bridge**  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Ballard  
**Robert Brownlee**  
Mrs. Carole L. Mattox  
**Mr. Frank Bryant**  
Mr. & Mrs. Werner Woods  
High School Graduating Class  
of 42

## The Baptist Children's Village bi-annual alumni reunion

August 11-12, 2000

India Nunnery Campus  
Flag Chapel Road, Jackson

Friday

7:30 p.m. - Dinner Theater

Saturday

9:30 a.m. - Registration

followed by business meeting and presentation.  
Lunch provided by The Baptist Children's Village.

Child care available.

Contact Chrystelle Thames or Celeste Cade at 922-2242.





## YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.  
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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BGNP TODL EA DAB, NTB  
LR POFF BGNP TODL EA  
UAS. HFRNTRX UASG  
LNTBX, UR XOTTRGX; NTB  
YSGOCU UASG LRNGEX,  
UR BASKFR WOTBRB.

VNWRX CASG: RODLE

Clue: T = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Twelve: Twenty-Four.

# Media violence leads to youth 'acting out'

WASHINGTON (BP) — Viewing violence in television and other media can result in an acceptance of and acting out of violence by some children, public health experts said July 26, contradicting the arguments of some in the entertainment industry.

In a statement released on Capitol Hill, officials with the American Medical Association (AMA) and three other organizations said more than 1,000 studies during more than three decades point to a "causal connection between media violence and aggressive behavior in some children." The public health community has concluded "viewing entertainment violence can lead to increases in aggressive attitudes, values, and behavior, particularly in children," according to the statement.

While some in the entertainment business contend media violence is harmless because no studies demonstrate a connection with aggressiveness in children, and they argue children recognize programming on TV and other media as fantasy, "they are wrong on both counts," the statement said.

The effects of viewing entertainment violence "are measurable and long-lasting," according to the statement.

Though the impact of viewing violence will vary among children, there are some "measurable negative effects," the health officials said. Among these:

- "Children exposed to violent programming at a young age have a higher tendency for violent and aggressive behavior later in life than children who are not so exposed.

- "Children exposed to violence are more likely to assume that acts of violence are acceptable behavior.

- "Viewing violence can lead to emotional desensitization towards violence in real life. ... [and] decrease the likelihood that one will take action on behalf of a victim when violence occurs."

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., one of

the sponsors of a summit held in conjunction with the statement's release, said in a written release he hoped the event "will be a watershed in the way people think about entertainment violence — and that through empowering parents with more information on the health risks it poses, they will be better equipped to protect their children."

In addition to the AMA, representatives of the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Psychological Association, and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry endorsed the statement.

The average American child watches TV as much as four hours a day and typically plays video games or spends time on the Internet at least another hour daily, according to the document. This does not include several more hours weekly watching videos at home or movies in theaters and listening to music, the officials said.

"Eighteen-month-old children emulate what they see on television," said J. Edward Hill, an AMA trustee, at the summit, accord-

ing to the Internet news site CNSNews.com. In the statement, the health officials express special concern about video games. Early studies of video games indicate the "negative impact may be significantly more severe" than that produced by TV, movies, or music, according to the statement.

## Chaplains' Association officers elected



Newly-elected officers of the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association include (from left) president-elect Linda McComb, chaplain in the pastoral care department of Mississippi Baptist Health Systems in Jackson; president Reid Whittington, director of pastoral services at East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian; immediate past president Drew Blanton, chaplain for South Central Regional Medical Center in Laurel; and secretary-treasurer Dexter Ware, chaplain for Southern Care Hospice in Brookhaven. (BR special photo)

## Adoption license plates draw ACLU threat in La.

BATON ROUGE, La. (BP) — A specialty license plate bearing the words "Choose Life" and depicting a pelican carrying a baby wrapped in a blanket may soon be the target of a lawsuit

filed by the Louisiana chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), CNSNews.com reported July 26.

The "Choose Life" license plate, featuring Louisiana's state bird, was

approved unanimously by both the Louisiana House and Senate in 1999 and signed into law by Republican Governor Mike Foster, CNSNews.com recounted. People who buy the license plates pay

the \$3.50 cost of the plate (a cost paid for all license plates) plus an additional \$25 charge for the specialty design, money that is collected by the state treasury.

An advisory council then recommends the awarding of grants to private adoption advocacy groups. The money must be targeted to help women who have a crisis pregnancy. The help can be financial, medical, or emotional/spiritual.

Louisiana ACLU director Joe Cook insists the state is conveying a political message with the "Choose Life" license plate.

"This license plate entangles the state with religion," Cook told CNSNews.com.

Advisory board member Kathleen Benfield said "the furor, over this plate, calls attention to the fact that those who call themselves pro-choice are really only for choice as long as that choice is abortion."

State Rep. Shirley Bowler, who sponsored the original license plate bill, agreed that to some extent the ACLU's Cook is right about the license plate being about abortion because "the antithesis of abortion would be adoption. We're talking about two different ways of dealing with a crisis pregnancy."



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

## LifeAnswers

My beautiful young granddaughter has now been rejected by both her father and grandfather (my son and my husband) — the only male role models she has had. How can I help fill this huge hole in her heart?

There is not a lot you can do to make up for the lack of a male role model, but you can show her how to be the loving woman God created her to be. Encourage her in her femininity. Help her to laugh at life and to learn from events that are thrown her way. As far as a male role model, speak with

her youth minister, pastor, Sunday School teacher, relative, coach, etc., who you feel would be a good male role model. God cares for those who have been abandoned; her father will some day give an account for his actions, but in the meantime she must learn how to deal with this hurt and become the Christian woman the Lord wants her to become.

I am finally getting on top of my difficulties, and now my strong friend says it is time for her

to move on and help others in need. I am devastated; what should I do?

Honor her wish, and continue your growth. Friendships change, and it seems your friend feels her calling is to help those who are in difficulty. She has a real gift and she gave that gift to you. When we continue to hold on to others, that is called "co-dependency." We were never supposed to be co-dependent on anyone except Christ. You have been blessed by this friendship; take what you have learned and pass it on to others in need.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. In central Mississippi, Ron Mumbower can be heard from 9-10 a.m. each Wednesday on WHJT-FM 93.5. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.